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REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Chemical Warfare Course Given by 45th Chemical Co.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The unit responsible for presenting the chemical warfare course was the 45th Cml. Co., subordinate to an infantry division (25X1
) in Olsztyn. This 360-hour chemical warfare training 25X1
course was the only one given at Olsztyn The primary mission of the course was to train a sufficient number of officers and warrant officers to carry on chemical warfare training in their 25X1
assigned units. There were about 50 officers taking the course this course was not of a per- 25X1
manent school category. Students were officers from various units 25X1
in the Olsztyn and Elk areas. Classroom instruction was conducted by five Polish officers and a few NCO's, all of the 45th Cml. Co. Instruction was in Polish, but there were some Russian abbreviations included. The texts used were translations from Russian into Polish.

2. There were two training manuals used at the school: Chemical Service, Polish Armed Forces (Sluzba Chemiczna Wojsk Polskich), Part I, 200-300 pages, basic chemical warfare data, red book cover, black lettering; Chemical Service, Polish Armed Forces, Part II, 500 pp, advanced chemical data, red book cover, black lettering. Part II had pictures and sketches of chemical munitions, equipment, and terrain exercises. Training aids in the nature of actual objects, i.e., the RDP-4, etc., were used by the instructors. EM of the 45th Cml. Co. put on demonstrations for the students, and as the course progressed, the students themselves actually conducted exercises in the field.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

25X1

3. The following constituted the program of studies and practical exercises in the course:

a. Tactical principles: chemical warfare was more a defensive than an offensive measure; smoke munitions were not to be used to pinpoint targets; smoke munitions should be released in the early morning, because of the dampness or dew; dropping gases from aircraft was the most effective means of putting lethal concentrations on targets.

b. Smoke munitions: construction; use on the offense; smokescreens and terrain conditions; static and moving smokescreens; smokescreens on water.

c. General meteorology: construction, function, and use of the Adrianow (Adrianov) meteorology wind instrument; temperature and precipitation instrument (psychrometer); cloud formation study; weather station operation; maintaining and sending weather record forms to one's headquarters 25X1

d. Detection of contaminated area: The approach was conducted by three-man reconnaissance teams with two of the men out in a flanking movement and the third going through the center. This team, clad in impermeable clothing, set skull and crossbones flags (black and white) around the entire gassed area. Warning messages were sent to advancing troops. The team took a sample of the air in the gassed area with the Ren. Detector Kit, SKHR-4, identified the gas, and determined how it was disseminated. Decontamination of an area could be accomplished by using a mixture of white lime and dirt, by fire, or possibly by merely covering with earth.

e. Protective clothing: Types, material, and use; nomenclature; length of time one could wear impermeable or protective clothing (one hour); disposal of protective clothing after it was used in a contaminated area; decontamination of impermeable clothing by use of naphtha, kerosene, soap and water, steam, or RDP-4 sprayer. At division level, the chemical company had a clothes decontaminating unit or could use the ADM 750.

f. Horse gas masks (dry and wet types); construction, utilization, and maintenance.

g. Gases: Types - choking, poison, blister, blister and burning; kinds - iperyt (mustard), lewisite, chlorpicrin, phosgene, diphosgene, tabun, adamsite, di-chloramine, hydrogen cyanide. Gases in sealed glass ampules mounted on a cardboard had the following color; 25X1
iperyt (mustard), brown liquid; adamsite, yellow crystals; lewisite, phosgene, di-phosgene, brown liquid (sic). the first and best protective measure against gas was the gas mask. The students were also told, however, that their mask was not adequate protection against all dosages or concentrations of gases. 25X1

h. Chemical munitions and equipment: all munitions and equipment mentioned previously in this report were demonstrated and used in practical exercises in the course. 25X1
there was a Soviet mobile smoke generator.
fixed flame thrower; FO and ROKS-3 flame thrower. The ROKS-3 consisted of an igniter with 12 cartridges, fired in series of three; it had fuel for 25 bursts at 25 m. distance each. 25X1
was a pressure regulator on this flame thrower.
thermite rounds and grenades, Molotov cocktails, and smoke grenades. these were World War II types made by the Germans.

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1. Gas chamber exercise: gas chamber exercise consisted of three periods of five minutes each. In a bunker type structure, 10 - 12 students were exposed to a chlorpicrin gas concentration to prove the effectiveness of the gas, and to orient the students with gas dissemination and the technique of gas chamber exercise. The swab method (waving cloth through the air) was used to spread the gas throughout the chamber.

4. there was a little too much theory in the course. For line officers, the practical exercises were of more importance for future employment under actual combat situations and the exercises were far more interesting. Although the course in general could be rated as good from instruction and application aspects, most students appeared to look down upon the use of chemical warfare in the overall military picture. Instructors appeared to be happy when they finished their lectures and got out of the classroom. Bacteriological and atomic warfare were merely mentioned in the course. 25X1

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Soviet lieutenant colonel visited at the Olsztyn chemical course. He was in Polish uniform but spoke Russian.

6. there was a chemical warfare OCS at Rembertow (521ON-2111E). The courses were 6 months, 12 months, and 2 years. Upon completion of the course officers were assigned to regimental, divisional and/or corps, chemical warfare officer positions. Candidates completing the two-year course were commissioned in the Chemical Warfare Service, and assigned as Chemical Warfare instructors or Gas Officers at Regt., Div., or Corps level.

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